

[Report No. 130.]

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

MARCH 31, 1852.

Read twice, and committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. COBB, from the Committee on Public Lands, reported the following bill :

A BILL

To authorize the States in which sixteenth school sections are situated to relinquish the valueless, or such as are not fit for cultivation, to the general government, and take other lands in lieu thereof.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Repre-*
2 *sentatives of the United States of America in Congress*
3 *assembled,* That in all cases where satisfactory evidence
4 is produced to the Governor or Governors of the States of
5 Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Alabama, Missis-
6 sippi, Michigan, Louisiana, Arkansas, Wisconsin, Iowa,
7 Florida and California, that any tract of land in said
8 States reserved or granted for the use of schools is, com-
9 paratively useless or unfit for cultivation, and that it is the
10 wish of the people or proper authority of the township

11 or townships for which such tract or tracts are reserved,
12 or to which it may be granted so to do, the said Governor
13 shall be, and he is hereby, authorized to relinquish such
14 tract or tracts to the government, in such manner and
15 form as may be prescribed by the Secretary of the In-
16 terior for that purpose, and select other lands in lieu
17 thereof, in legal subdivisions, in quantity not to exceed
18 the number of acres thus relinquished, of any of the un-
19 claimed and unappropriated public lands in these respective
20 State or States, or in any of the Territories of the United
21 States, where the lands are now or that may hereafter
22 be subject to entry: *Provided*, In all cases the certificate
23 of the Governor of the State that may desire to locate
24 any portion of said lands that she is entitled to, shall be
25 first made and transmitted to the Secretary of the Interior
26 that, in his opinion, lands of the value of one dollar and
27 twenty-five cents per acre, and suitable for cultivation, can-
28 not be found within said State, upon which locations can be
29 made; and in that case the locations may be made as
30 aforesaid, within any of the Territories of the United
31 States, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the In-
32 terior; and when approved, to be held, used, or disposed of
33 in such manner as the legislature of the State or States
34 holding said lands may think proper, for no other purpose

35 whatever than for educational purposes, in the respective
36 townships to which said lands or proceeds thereof may be
37 due; and the land relinquished under the provisions of this
38 act to the general government, shall be disposed of as all
39 other public lands belonging to the United States.